



# **2013 Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge** **Feral Horse Corrals**

## **Public Observation Announcement**

Sheldon-Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Lakeview, Oregon  
Contact: Megan Nagel, [megan\\_nagel@fws.gov](mailto:megan_nagel@fws.gov), 503-231-6123

On September 14, 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) completed gathering 415 feral horses at Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) as part of its ongoing management actions to implement the Service's 2012 Record of Decision for the Sheldon NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan and associated Final Environmental Impact Statement.

In order to conduct effective and efficient sorting operations, to ensure safety for horses, employees, and the public, the administrative facility where horses are being temporarily held is closed to public entry. Public viewing and observation of horses in the corrals and sorting operations is possible at a distance from other areas of Sheldon NWR open to the public.

In addition, the Service scheduled an opportunity for the public/media to observe horses within the corrals on October 2, 2013. However, because of a lapse in appropriations (i.e., the government shutdown) the observation opportunity was cancelled. Now that appropriations have been restored, the Service will provide an escort for up to 10 members of the public/media to observe the approximately 100 horses that remain within corrals at Sheldon Refuge on Thursday, October 24, 2013 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Observation opportunities will be provided on a first-come, first-serve basis. Public observation of horses in the corrals will be from a distance of 50-100 feet. Persons interested in participating should meet Service staff at the Sheldon Refuge Headquarters office near Highway 140 shortly before 9:00 a.m.

Due to our need to ensure public safety as well as the safety of animals and employees and to maintain a low stress environment for horses, the following guidelines will apply to members of the public/media observing the corrals:

- Observers must sign a Refuge Special Use Permit agreeing to follow all verbal and written staff instruction.
- Observers will have access to view the gather from a designated safe observation area and will be escorted at all times by Service personnel.
- Pets will not be allowed.
- Failure to follow permit stipulations will result in the immediate removal of individuals. In addition, such individuals may be banned from future observations.

If you wish to observe horses within the corrals at Sheldon NWR, please notify Megan Nagel no later than 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 23, 2013 at [megan\\_nagel@fws.gov](mailto:megan_nagel@fws.gov) or 503-231-6123.